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Kabul 09° Mostly cloudy | Kandahar 23° Sunny | Herat 22° Partly cloudy | Jalalabad 20° Partly cloudy | Mazar-e-Sharif 19° Partly cloudy | Bamyan -2° Partly cloudy

Deputy PM Beradar in Uzbekistan for talks on expansion of trade, transit relations



KABUL: Mullah Abdul Ghani Beradar Akhund, the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs of the Islamic Emirate, during his visit to Uzbekistan, met with Jamshid Khodjaev, that country's Deputy Prime Minister, and discussed the expansion of bilateral trade and transit relations.

The office of the deputy PM for economic affairs said Saturday in a statement that Mullah Beradar and his accompanying delegation visited Uzbekistan to strengthen political, economic, and trade relations between the two countries, as well as to attract investment from Uzbek businessmen in Afghanistan. Speaking at the meeting, Jamshid Khodjaev stated that Tashkent is prepared to establish a joint commercial zone at the border between the two countries to enhance bilateral trade relations, according to the statement.

The commercial zone will include processing factories for pine nuts and cotton, packaging and logistics centers, and manufacturing units for various food products. The Uzbek investors are ready to cooperate with the Islamic Emirate in the exploration and extraction of oil and gas in Afghanistan and to invest in the industrial sector, including the establishment of a cement factory in Samangan province, he said, adding that significant progress has been made in the exploration of the Tuti-Maidan gas field, and the extraction work will be kicked off soon. Meanwhile, Mullah Beradar welcomed the Uzbek side's proposals and assured full cooperation from the Islamic Emirate in these areas. According to the statement, the Afghan delegation encompassed the acting Minister of Mines and Petroleum Hedayatullah Badri, acting Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation Hamedullah Akhundzada, acting Minister of Industry and Commerce Nooruddin Azizi, acting Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock Ataullah Omari, Da Afghanistan Bank President Noor Ahmad Agha, and Deputy Finance Minister for Revenue and Customs Abdul Matin Saeed.

The Kabul Times

OIC urged to cooperate with Afghanistan in health sector



KABUL: The acting Minister of Public Health of the Islamic Emirate, Mawlavi Noor Jalal Jalali, in a meeting with Tariq Ali Bakheet, the deputy and special envoy of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, urged the OIC's member states to cooperate with the country's health sector, the ministry said in a statement Saturday.

Enhancing healthcare facilities, strengthening the capacity of Afghan medical personnel, and improving the treatment of drug addicts and cancer patients have been discussed in the meeting, the statement said. Mawlavi Jalali emphasized the crucial role of OIC's support in strengthening and expanding Afghanistan's healthcare system, urging member states to engage actively in collaborative initiatives and assistance programs. Meanwhile, the OIC representative reaffirmed the organization's commitment to supporting Afghanistan's healthcare sector and broader areas of cooperation.**The Kabul Times**

220 KV power transmission cable extended from Arghandi to Butkhak, ministry

KABUL: The Ministry of Energy and Water said Saturday in a statement that the new Butkhak substation and 220 kV transmission line from Arghandi to Butkhak worth $25.4 million have been officially inaugurated, addressing the power shortages in Kabul city.

In a ceremony held on this occasion, Mullah Abdul Latif Mansour, the acting Minister of Energy and Water, said the transmission line from Arghandi to Butkhak project included a set of projects related to the 500 kV Turkmenistan – Afghanistan transmission line.



The ceremony was also attended by the Deputy Minister of Information and Culture Mawlavi Muhajer Farahi, and a number of government officials, scholars, and local residents, the statement said.

Meanwhile, Muhajer Farahi emphasized that the Islamic Emirate has spared no efforts for the liberation of the country and it would now work day and night toward the country's development and prosperity.

The Kabul Times

New Delhi seeks diplomatic engagement with Kabul

KABUL: The Indian government is set to extend invitations to key diplomats from the Islamic Emirate to visit the country, marking a fresh development in New Delhi's relationship with Kabul, Bloomberg reported the other day.

Recent efforts have been intensified to enhance ties between Kabul and New Delhi, Bloomberg said. Previously, India had welcomed Ikramuddin Kamel as the Afghan consul general in Mumbai. This development coincides with statements from Islamic Emirate officials, highlighting significant diplomatic accomplishments in 2024 and expressing optimism for further progress in 2025.

The Kabul Times



Hundreds of Afghans deported from Iran, Pakistan in past 24 hours



KABUL: Nearly 400 Afghan migrants have been forcibly deported by the Iranian and Pakistani governments in the past one day, the Commission for the Investigation of Migrant and Returnee Issues said in a statement Saturday.

According to the statement, the deported individuals entered the country through Islam Qala port in Herat province, Pul-e-Abresham in Nimroz province, Spin Boldak in Kandahar province, and Torkham in Nangarhar province. "257 of the deported migrants were expelled from Iran, with 159 returning through the Islam Qala border and 98 through the Pul-e-Abresham," said the statement. Also, the statement noted that 62 migrants were deported from Pakistan, entering through Spin Boldak and Torkham. It should be said that the Embassy of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan in Islamabad, has said that the Pakistani government has started the process of expelling all Afghan migrants including Afghan migrants holding ACC and POR cards from Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

The Kabul Times

Dozens of historical sites identified & registered in Laghman

KABUL: At least 27 historical and touristic sites have been identified and registered in Laghman province, the Ministry of Information and Culture said in a statement Saturday. The ministry's archeology team has registered 3 historical sites in Mehtarlam city, 6 sites in Qarghayee, 14 sites in Alingar, and 4 sites in Alishang district, the ministry said, adding that 3 inscriptions in the Sharada Brahmi script were also identified and documented in Alishang district. These inscriptions have not been read yet and require further research, the statement further said, adding that the historical sites are mostly related to pre-Islamic and Buddhist periods, especially (Mauryas and Kushans). To strengthen and popularize the culture of tourism and attract tourists from around the world, historical places and tourist areas should be identified and registered in the province and introduced to domestic and foreign tourists. Laghman province has various tourist areas and places with beautiful hilltops, roaring rivers, and high mountains, which, along with domestic tourists, tourists from foreign countries also visit them annually.

The Kabul Times



Norway keen to enhance relations between Islamic Emirate, world, envoy

Paul Kloman added that his country is cooperating with the Islamic Emirate in the areas of climate change, narcotics, alternative cultivation for Afghan farmers, and humanitarian aid, and this cooperation will continue.

BEIJING: The Norwegian Chargé d'affaires for Afghanistan, Paul Kloman Becker, during a meeting with Mawlavi Asadullah Bilal Karimi, the Ambassador of the Islamic Emirate to China, said that his country has been making efforts to enhance relations between the Islamic Emirate and international community, the embassy reported Saturday.

Paul Kloman added that his country is cooperating with the Islamic Emirate in the areas of climate change, narcotics, alternative cultivation for Afghan farmers, and humanitarian aid, and this cooperation will continue.

Meanwhile, Karimi praised the recent diplomatic developments between Afghanistan and Norway, calling this progress an important step in bilateral interaction based on mutual respect.

Recently, the relations of the Islamic Emirate have been expanding with different countries of the world.

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Food for thought

Today's generation guarantees our bright future

Learning both religious and modern sciences required

Since the Islamic system has now been established in the country, a university student, without being engaged in Islamic law, can learn Islamic teachings.

How beautiful for the students of a university is to be aware of his religion besides becoming a doctor or an engineer in the future.

As the Islamic Emirate's acting Minister of Refugees and Repatriations said, the current system does not belong exclusively to clerics and religious scholars but is a shared system for all Muslims of Afghanistan and a modern school student can learn both religious studies if wanted.

Both studies help the current Islamic system strengthen and develop, and no one would be allowed to weaken or undermine the ruling Islamic system.

Also, as he said, in this system, it will not be the case that a religious scholar claims ownership of the system while university professors and students feel alienated.

Meantime, as he believes, tribal leaders, elders, and other influential figures will not feel marginalized, nor will the Pashtun tribe assume that this government is exclusively for them. In this system, Pashtuns have their place, Tajiks have their place, and Uzbeks and other people of different strata also hold their rightful positions.

Universities and religious schools share common goals and emphasize the expansion of these institutions across the country.

The path is open for those who wish to pursue master's and doctoral studies, including both religious and modern science.

If a university student has the capability and wishes to undertake introductory and advanced courses under our esteemed scholars, no one will prevent them from attending religious schools or tell them that since he is a university student, why has he come to a madrasa as the country must utilize all its human and professional resources as required.

So, the entire people of the country should join hands to support their broad-based Islamic system and work for the development and promotion of both religious and modern studies.

IEA making efforts for transparent extraction, preservation of precious minerals

Afghanistan is rich in untapped mineral resources, estimated to be worth over $3 trillion, including gold, copper, lithium, rare earth elements, and precious gemstones. These resources have the potential to transform the country's economy if extracted and managed efficiently. However, decades of instability, illegal mining, and lack of infrastructure have hindered proper exploitation.



The Islamic Emirate has pledged to ensure transparency and legal oversight in mineral extraction, aiming to attract foreign investment and develop a sustainable mining industry that benefits the Afghan people while adhering to international environmental and economic standards.

From gold and rubies to copper and lithium, Afghanistan is blessed with invaluable resources. Unfortunately, in previous years, these riches were viewed not as national assets but as war spoils, leading to widespread illegal mining.

The Islamic Emirate has taken serious and unprecedented steps to ensure the transparent extraction and preservation of minerals.

These efforts have not only changed the state of the mountains but also transformed public perception.

A well-organized system for mineral management is now in place to accurately account for every gram of reserves. From international agreements to the appointment of technical experts, everything has been structured to protect these assets while ensuring the Afghan people benefit from them.

Strict regulations have been enforced to prevent illegal mining, bringing an end to reckless and illegal extraction.

The government has been addressing past challenges in the mineral extraction sector, including corruption and the lack of transparency in previous administrations. This process is not just about law enforcement but also about implementing international standards for mining.

The Islamic Emirate has committed to transparency in mineral extraction to strengthen the national economy and free the mining sector from corrupt and illegal networks.

Afghanistan's mineral wealth presents significant opportunities for international companies and investors.

Proper extraction can lead to unprecedented economic growth, but it must be conducted through a transparent and legal process to ensure natural resources are managed scientifically and in an environmentally friendly manner.

In the past, the mining sector suffered from illegal practices, corruption, and environmental degradation.

To ensure transparency and prevent illegal extraction, the Islamic Emirate has taken significant steps to combat corruption and illegal networks that have long exploited the country's mineral wealth.

Due to extensive corruption in past administrations, not only were mineral resources wasted, but opportunities for economic and social development were also lost. Corrupt networks involved in the mining sector smuggled minerals worth billions of dollars out of the country, weakening the government and fueling further corruption.

The Islamic Emirate has introduced a series of legal measures, regulations, and policies to ensure that mining is conducted properly. While mining can undoubtedly strengthen the economy, only transparent and legal mining can be truly beneficial.

Transparency in the mining process is crucial to preventing corruption and ensuring that mineral extraction follows legal procedures.

These measures not only contribute to economic growth but also improve security in mining areas and enhance the quality of life for local communities.

Protecting Afghanistan's natural ecosystem alongside mining activities is essential, ensuring that mineral extraction does not harm the environment, underground water, or air quality.

The Islamic Emirate has taken serious measures to enforce transparency and legal compliance while prioritizing environmental protection.

Regulations for mining and the application of technical knowledge in environmental conservation aim to prevent ecological damage. Scientific and internationally compliant mining practices can prevent pollution and safeguard Afghanistan's natural ecosystems. The process must include measures for resource conservation, groundwater protection, and land restoration.

One of the most significant steps taken by the Islamic Emirate is ensuring transparency in mineral extraction. By implementing laws and regulations, the government has created a system where corruption is minimized.

As part of this effort, collaborations with foreign companies have been established to ensure that mining follows international standards. These steps not only benefit Afghanistan's economy but also promote the transparency and legality of the mining sector.

International cooperation is essential for effectively utilizing Afghanistan's mineral wealth. The Islamic Emirate has engaged with international organizations and developed nations to ensure transparency in mining and the protection of natural resources.

Through this cooperation, Afghanistan can gain technical expertise and global experience to maximize the long-term benefits of its resources.

Global collaboration in Afghanistan's mining sector is not just about strengthening trade relations but also about national development.

Ensuring transparency and environmental protection in mining through international partnerships benefits both Afghanistan and global markets by providing a legal and regulated avenue for mineral trade. Adopting international standards in mining can secure sustainable economic advantages for Afghanistan.

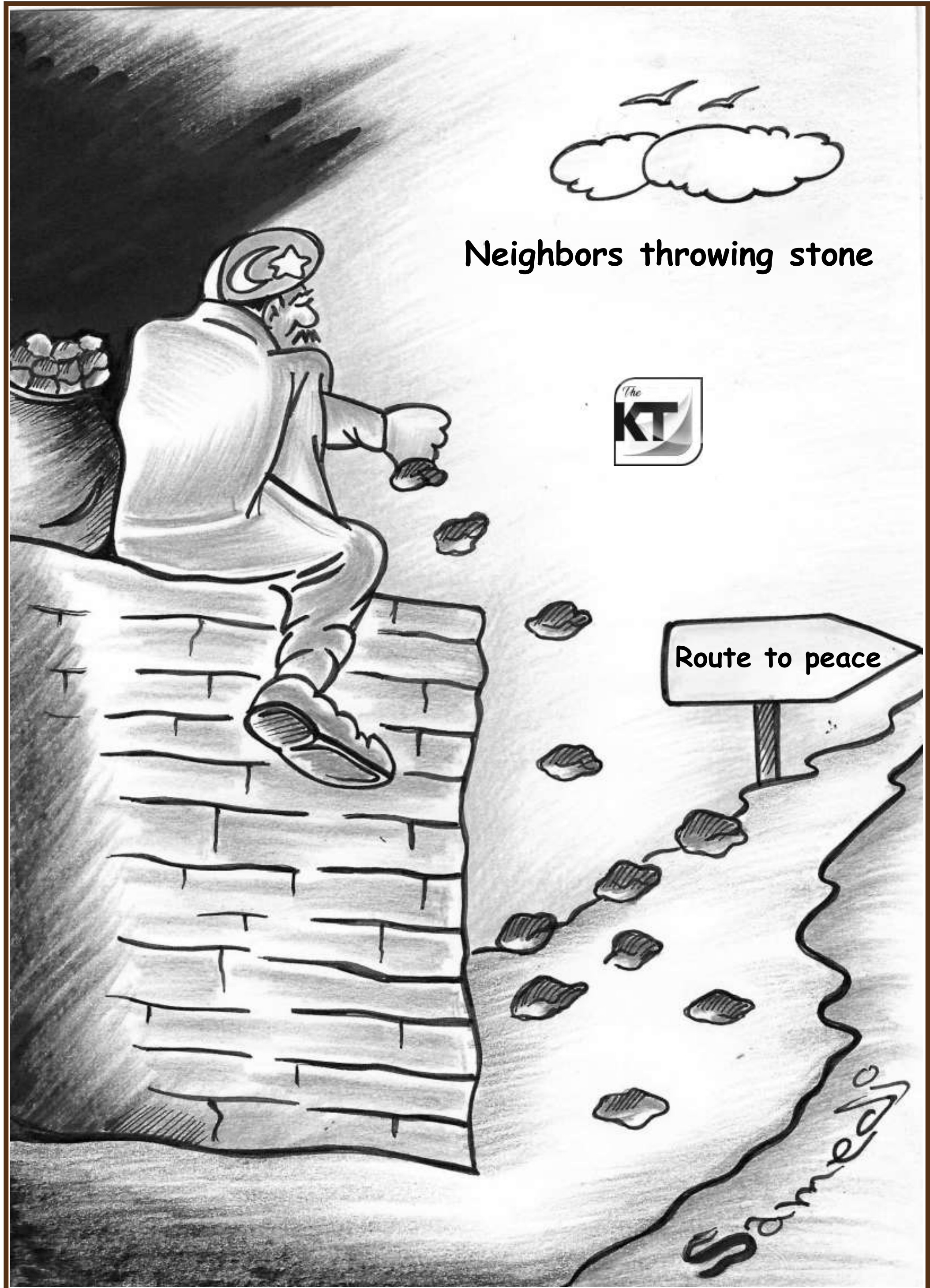
In conclusion, Afghanistan is among the richest nations in terms of natural resources, with estimated mineral wealth exceeding $3 trillion.

However, the exploitation of these resources has historically been disorganized and plagued by corruption. Since coming to power, the Islamic Emirate has taken serious steps to ensure that mineral extraction is transparent and lawful. The Islamic Emirate has made significant efforts to enhance transparency, prevent corruption, and protect the environment in the mining sector. Implementing international standards and enforcing regulations are among the government's key priorities.

These measures are essential for strengthening Afghanistan's economy and safeguarding its natural wealth.

Ultimately, ensuring transparency and legal processes in mining will strengthen Afghanistan's economy, protect its natural resources, and increase its role in global markets.

Abdul Rashid



Impact of social media: Opportunities and challenges

The rapid development of social media in Afghanistan and the transformation of people's communication in the past few years have shown great progress, but in addition to this development, there are also some negative aspects that lead to irresponsible and improper use of this media.

There are various social media platforms such as Facebook, X, Instagram, TikTok, and others, which have facilitated communication between people as a global community, sharing ideas, and maintaining relationships with their friends and loved ones.

In Afghanistan, where access to technologies and various platforms was previously limited, the development of social media has now created a new system of information exchange between people, through which Afghans communicate with people from other countries on an international level, share their ideas and messages worldwide, exchange their cultural, religious, and social experiences, and live in harmony with globalization. With the development of technologies and various social media platforms, a new arena has been created for young people to share their ideas, concerns, and desires, which leads to social cohesion, development, and scientific and cultural exchange at the country level. Through social media, Afghans find new opportunities to solve their problems, make great efforts to improve communication with their fellow citizens,



and participate in the field of international dialogue toward social change. Facebook, X, Instagram, TikTok, and other social media platforms have allowed people to share their thoughts, experiences, and information with other people around the world. These platforms have not only created opportunities for developing relationships between people, but have also brought about great changes in the formation of social relationships and the reflection of individual lives as people can share their social life, knowledge, and culture with their friends and the world through these platforms, which have become an excellent tool for developing relationships, expressing themselves, and getting acquainted with different ideas and cultures. However, with this development, there are also some negative aspects that need to be considered. Most of the time, people are active and use various social media platforms only to show off and attract the attention of others, which creates superficial relationships instead of deep relationships. When relationships are built only on the basis of "likes" and "comments", there is a lack of real and heartfelt relationships. Also, excessive use of social media leads to waste of time, invasion of personal privacy, and sometimes misunderstandings between people. Therefore, it is necessary for people to protect themselves from the negative aspects of social media and try to build their relationships based on true values. People should adopt moderation in using the internet and try to give depth to their thoughts and relationships. The positive aspects of social media should be taken advantage of to develop good relationships, respect for the individual, and social harmony. This will not only improve the quality of relationships between people, but will also lead to social development and progress.

Feda Mohammad

National projects security a must

After the resumption of power by the Islamic Emirate nearly four years ago, efforts for the launch of major projects have been intensified in various provinces of the country.

Recently, the Ministry of Interior of the Islamic Emirate assured that special forces have been deployed to ensure the security of major national and infrastructure projects.

Abdul Matin Qani, the ministry's spokesperson, emphasized that the Islamic Emirate has taken serious measures to safeguard development projects, particularly in transit and commercial sectors.

"After forty years, Afghanistan is now on the path of progress. There may be countries that do not want this process to continue, but Afghanistan is striving to become a transit hub in Asia and improve its trade and economy," he said.

The spokesperson also highlighted the significance of infrastructure projects, stating that 200 special forces personnel have been deployed to protect the Qush Tepa project under the order of the Islamic Emirate's leader.

"The Qush Tepa canal, which is a national project for all of us, has commenced. Alongside its launch, Shaik Sahib (may Allah protect him) ordered the deployment of 200 special forces to secure the project. We assess projects based on their needs and sign agreements with private companies and investors to ensure their security," he added.

However, some economic experts believe that while security is crucial for attracting investment, it is not sufficient on its own.

They argue that the Islamic Emirate should provide special incentives and privileges for investors.

"Investment laws in Afghanistan should be simplified, incentive packages should be offered, and the necessary conditions should be provided for investors. These factors include land distribution, electricity supply, and access to raw materials," stated Abdul Naseer Rishita, an economic expert. Meanwhile, yesterday, the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs announced in a meeting in Kabul that Afghanistan is expanding its diplomatic and trade relations with regional countries. He also urged the private sector to invest in various fields.

A few days ago, the Ministry of Economy said that at least 355 development projects have been initiated this solar year (1403) across various sectors in the country, with some already completed and operational.

Abdul Rahman Habib, the spokesperson for the Ministry of Economy, told TOLOnews that all these projects have been funded by the country's internal revenue, with 54% focused on infrastructure. According to Habib, 19 other projects are currently in the procurement phase.

According to the spokesperson, since the beginning of this year, around 355 development projects funded by internal revenue are included in the development budget and all of them are designed and implemented to help create job opportunities, reduce poverty, and ensure economic stability. The largest share of the development budget is allocated to the infrastructure sector, with approximately 54% of resources spent on infrastructure programs.

Meanwhile, some experts believe that working on large-scale projects that provide employment opportunities for the people benefits Afghanistan's economy and that these projects should be prioritized based on the country's needs. Ismail Zadran, an economic analyst, told local media that these projects can be valuable for the country's economy because every project implemented in Afghanistan not only advances the economy but also provides job opportunities for thousands of unemployed individuals.

Issa Mobarez, another economic analyst, said: "Prioritization is necessary—identifying which projects are essential, how they should be implemented, and which projects generate the most revenue. The more revenue we earn and the more revenue-generating projects we focus on, the better results we achieve and the more investments we can make."

According to the Ministry of Economy, 157 projects remained incomplete from previous years, with work still ongoing. Many institutions of the Islamic Emirate have also developed plans for launching new major projects next year as the move helps reduce poverty on one hand and, on the other hand, promotes the impoverished country's economy.

Inam Hashemi

Freedom; a critical examination of its evolution & influence

Part II



The concept of freedom has deep historical roots that stretch from the early days of human civilization to the complex political and social models of the modern West. This part examines two interconnected topics: the historical emergence of freedom and the models of freedom that have come to exemplify Western political thought. While the history of freedom explores its origins, background, and the catalysts for its emergence, Western models focus on structures, state organization, religious influences, and ideas that became paradigms for later generations, especially after the Renaissance.

In the cradle of civilization, the Orient played a pivotal role in nurturing the world's earliest cultures. Civilizations in regions such as Japan, China, India, Iran, and parts of Russia were built on concepts that revolved around the establishment of a centralized, vast, and majestic state.

In these Eastern societies, legitimacy was naturally derived from the grandeur of a ruler's domain. The extent of a state's territory and its wealth were seen as reflections of divine sanction, and the rulers—often regarded as absolute autocrats—were deified.

These rulers claimed either to be divine themselves or to be inspired by God, making any form of dissent or rebellion an unforgivable sin.

Such a system enabled Eastern monarchs to consolidate power, expand territories, and commission grand architectural projects—monuments of oppression and might that still stand today.

In Persia, for example, the kings maintained their rule by suppressing internal rebellions and launching external campaigns to capture new lands.

Between 500 and 300 BC, several dangerous uprisings, partly instigated by the Greeks, challenged the absolute authority of Persian kings. It was during these turbulent times that the idea of political freedom began to emerge, as a reaction against despotic rule.

The defining moment in the birth of freedom came with the Battle of Marathon in 490 BC. Here, Greek forces, employing innovative military tactics, defeated the mighty Persian army.

The victory was celebrated not merely as a military success but as the triumph of a people who rejected the notion of divine kingship.

Athens and Sparta, by proclaiming their independence from the autocratic rule of Persia, laid the cornerstone for political freedom—a freedom defined by the rejection of unilateral divine authority.

The Athenians, in particular, crafted myths and legends extolling their liberation from tyranny, setting a precedent for future generations.

Following the birth of political freedom in Greece, Athens emerged as the first practical model of a democratic society. Unlike Persia, where power was centralized in a divine monarch, Athens organized public affairs based on collective participation.

The Athenian model championed equality before the law and the free expression of ideas.

In its democratic institutions, such as the popular assembly, all citizens had the opportunity to participate in governance, thus guaranteeing political freedom. Economic freedom was also fostered through market opportunities and property rights, allowing individuals to act within the bounds of the law without infringing on the rights of others.

However, Athenian freedom was not without limitations. Citizenship was restricted to experienced men, while women, foreigners, and slaves were excluded from full civic participation.

Despite these constraints, the Athenian experiment provided the essential building blocks for modern democratic thought and served as a beacon for subsequent models of freedom.

Alexander the Great later extended Greek ideas of freedom far beyond the confines of Greece. By uniting diverse regions under his vast empire, Alexander spread the notions of equality and meritocracy across a wide territory, laying the groundwork for global political structures founded on the principle of freedom.

The Roman Republic further refined these ideas by establishing balanced governmental institutions.

Through systems of checks and balances, the Romans secured various freedoms for their citizens—political participation, individual liberty, and economic rights. Although the later Roman Empire shifted towards centralization, its earlier republican model had already left an indelible mark on the Western conception of freedom.

Even the rise of Christianity, while it primarily emphasized spiritual freedom over political autonomy, contributed to the evolution of individual liberties that would later flourish in Europe after the Middle Ages.

Together, these historical milestones—from the Persian autocracies to Athenian democracy, Alexander's empire, and the Roman institutional model—formed the basis of Western freedom.

They set in motion a tradition of thought and governance that has continued to evolve alongside technological and social advancements, shaping modern democratic societies. **Mukhtar Safi**

Kandahar olive farmers demand processing facilities

Kandahar, a province in southern Afghanistan once known for poppy cultivation, has seen a significant increase in olive farming in recent years.

Many landowners have established olive orchards alongside other crops.

According to the Kandahar Department of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, there are currently 160 acres of olive orchards in the province, yielding an annual harvest of 25 tons.



Shams-ur-Rahman Musa, Director of Agricultural Affairs at the Department of Agriculture and Livestock, states that olive trees are economically viable compared to other crops, which is why their cultivation is increasing.

He says: "In Kandahar, we have 160 acres of olive orchards, producing 25 tons of olives annually. Olives are an economically beneficial crop, and their cultivation is expanding in Kandahar."

According to local sources, the olives produced in Kandahar are currently transported to Nangarhar province for processing. As a result, farmers and local traders in Kandahar earn minimal profits.

Sayed Rahim, an olive farmer in Kandahar, states: "If processing facilities were established in Kandahar, I believe olives would gain economic value similar to other profitable crops."

He adds: "After harvesting olives from our orchards, we send them to Nangarhar for processing. If they were processed here in Kandahar, farmers would benefit more. Unprocessed olives do not hold significant economic value. We request the government to support us by setting up processing factories in our province."

Agricultural experts emphasize that olive trees are more beneficial than many other crops because they require less maintenance and can withstand drought conditions.

Agricultural specialist Mohammad Anwar Abasin told The Kabul Times that the Afghan government should actively promote olive cultivation to improve the country's economic situation.

He also urges farmers to plant olive trees regardless of government support, stating, "Olive trees require very little water, which is particularly useful given the increasing drought in Afghanistan. Additionally, olives have high market value. Even a small piece of land with an olive orchard can generate enough income to support a family."

Health experts highlight that olives are rich in nutrients and play a significant role in preventing various diseases.

Dr. Bismillah Ibrahimi told The Kabul Times, "Olives are beneficial for heart health, digestion, the nervous system, skin, cancer prevention, and many other health conditions."

Local officials in Kandahar state that if olive production increases, the government will establish processing factories.

Engineer Eimal Hakimi, Head of Fruit and Vegetable Development at the Kandahar Department of Agriculture and Livestock, says that efforts are being made to promote olive cultivation among farmers.

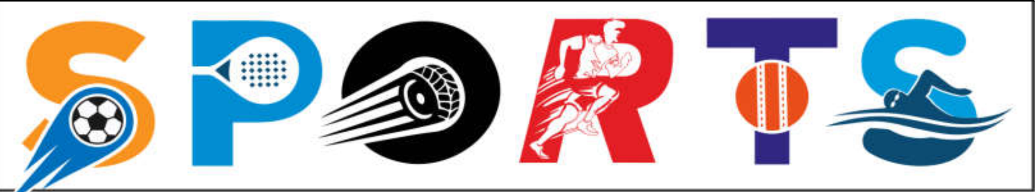
He explains, "Olive trees yield good harvests in Kandahar. The climate and water conditions here are suitable for this crop. The only issue is that olive cultivation has not yet been widely promoted. However, if production increases, there is a possibility that processing factories and machinery will be established."

In addition to Kandahar, farmers in neighboring provinces have also begun planting olive orchards in recent years.

Ehsanullah Wolasmal

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USD	GBP	INR	PKR	EUR	IRR	AED
01	01	1000	1000	01	1000	01
AFN	AFN	AFN	AFN	AFN	AFN	AFN
73.90	93.35	853	254	77.33	01.34	20.28



Jiu-Jitsu National Federation organizes "Ramadan Cup" competition in Kabul



The Jiu-Jitsu National Federation successfully organized the "Ramadan Cup" competition in No-Gi and Fukantak styles in Kabul city. The event brought together 100 athletes who competed in a highly competitive atmosphere.

The tournament was held under the supervision of Sayed Jawad Hosseini, the technical deputy of the Jiu-Jitsu National Federation. It took place at the Niro Sports Complex in Kabul's 10th district and lasted for one day.

The primary aim of the Ramadan Cup was to celebrate the holy month of Ramadan while also identifying and recognizing top Jiu-Jitsu athletes in the country. The event provided a platform for fighters to showcase their talent, skills, and strength in both the No-Gi and Fukantak styles.

Jiu-Jitsu is gaining popularity in Afghanistan, with many young athletes participating in national and international competitions. Events like the Ramadan Cup not only enhance the competitive spirit among athletes but also promote martial arts as a means of physical fitness and discipline.

At the conclusion of the tournament, medals and certificates were awarded to the top-performing athletes. The recognition serves as motivation for Jiu-Jitsu practitioners and encourages more young people to participate in the sport.

The Jiu-Jitsu National Federation continues to play a crucial role in developing martial arts in Afghanistan, providing training opportunities and organizing tournaments to help Afghan fighters compete on a global stage.

The successful completion of the Ramadan Cup demonstrates the federation's commitment to promoting sports despite challenges, and it highlights the increasing enthusiasm for Jiu-Jitsu among Afghan youth.

The Kabul Times

Fourth round of skiing competition "Afghan Pax" held in Bamyan



The fourth round of the skiing competition, "Afghan Pax," was successfully held in Bamyan province with the participation of 170 athletes.

The event was organized by the Bamyan Directorate of Physical Education and Sports and took place in the center of the province.

According to Hafiz Shafiq-ur-Rahman Rahimi, the director of Physical Education and Sports in Bamyan, athletes from 11 ski clubs competed in three different categories: beginner (Laghari), professional (Harafawi), and amateur (Amateur).

The competition provided an opportunity for both experienced and aspiring skiers to showcase their skills in one of Afghanistan's most popular winter sports. Bamyan, known for its breathtaking landscapes and snowy mountains, has become a key destination for skiing events in the country.

Such sporting events not only promote winter sports but also encourage youth participation in physical activities, helping to strengthen the sports culture in Afghanistan.

The tournament also highlights the province's potential as a hub for tourism and international skiing events.

Local authorities and sports officials have emphasized their commitment to further developing skiing in Bamyan, hoping to attract more national and international interest in future competitions.

The Kabul Times

South Africa overpowers Afghanistan in Champions Trophy

The Afghanistan national cricket team faced a tough start in the Champions Trophy, losing their opening match against South Africa. The game, which took place on a highly competitive stage, saw the Afghan team struggle to chase a massive target set by their opponents.

Batting first, South Africa posted an imposing total of 316 runs in their allotted 50 overs. Their strong batting lineup capitalized on Afghanistan's bowling attack, building a formidable score.

In response, Afghanistan could only manage 208 runs before being bowled out, resulting in a 107-run defeat. Despite their efforts, the Afghan batsmen found it difficult to counter South Africa's disciplined bowling attack.

Although the loss was disappointing, the Afghan team remains determined to make a strong comeback in the upcoming matches. They will face England in their second group-stage game on Wednesday, where they will aim to bounce back and keep their tournament hopes alive.

The team, along with their passionate supporters, remains hopeful for better performances in the matches ahead. The Afghan Cricket Board also encouraged fans to continue supporting the team, emphasizing the resilience and fighting spirit of the Afghan players. The Afghan team is committed to overcoming this setback and delivering stronger performances in the remainder of the competition.

With the unwavering support of their nation, Afghanistan's cricketers will look to put this defeat behind them and focus on the challenges ahead.

The Kabul Times



France's Bardella cancels CPAC speech after Steve Bannon's 'Nazi' gesture



France's far-right leader Jordan Bardella has said he cancelled a planned speech at a right-wing meeting in Washington after a "gesture alluding to Nazi ideology" by a speaker, an apparent reference to the conservative firebrand Steve Bannon.

The president of the National Rally (RN) party said he was not present when Bannon – one of the masterminds behind US President Donald Trump's 2016 presidential campaign – made an apparent fascist-style gesture on Thursday at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC).

"Yesterday, while I was not present in the room, one of the speakers out of provocation allowed himself a gesture alluding to Nazi ideology. I therefore took the immediate decision to cancel my speech that had been scheduled this afternoon," Bardella said in a statement on Friday.

As his CPAC speech drew to a close, Bannon briefly held out a stiff arm as he suggested Trump could pursue a constitutionally prohibited third term, calling on the audience to "fight, fight, fight".

Speaking to a journalist from Le Point, Bannon said Bardella was a "wimp" if he cancelled his appearance over the gesture.

"If he's that worried about it … then he is unworthy and will never lead France," Bannon said.

Bannon's gesture resembled one by tech billionaire and Trump ally Elon Musk last month that was widely compared to a Nazi salute.

The former Trump strategist and right-wing media executive served a four-month sentence last year for defying a Congressional subpoena to testify about the January 6, 2021, riot at the United States Capitol.

Bardella, 29, became RN leader in 2022 taking over from Marine Le Pen, and leads the Patriots group in the European Parliament.

Le Pen has remained party leader in parliament. She has been the runner-up in the last two French presidential elections and is expected to make the next presidential run in 2027.

Le Pen has worked hard to render the party her father Jean-Marie co-founded more palatable to voters since she took over from him in 2011. This included purging members accused of anti-Semitism and appointing the telegenic Bardella to expand its voter base.

The RN won a record number of seats in parliament in snap polls last year after President Emmanuel Macron dissolved the lower chamber when Le Pen's party topped the poll in European elections.

At a European far-right meeting in Madrid earlier this month, Le Pen adopted the slogan "Make Europe Great Again", in a nod to Trump's rallying cry "Make America Great Again", and hailed Trump's "tornado" in the US as showing the way forward for the European Union.

aljazeera

IMF appreciates govt commitment to governance, corruption assessment

A mission of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that recently visited Pakistan to evaluate the country's governance has said it appreciated the government's commitment to such assessments, it emerged on Saturday.

A technical mission of the IMF was in Pakistan earlier this month to scrutinise the judicial and regulatory system as part of the ongoing $7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) to address governance and corruption vulnerabilities.

During the visit, a delegation led by Joel Turkewitz discussed judicial performance, governance and reforms in a meeting with Chief Justice of Pakistan Yahya Afridi.

In a recent statement posted on its website, the IMF recalled that its scoping mission visited Islamabad from February 6 to 14 "to lay the groundwork for a Governance and Corruption Diagnostic Assessment (GCD) at the request" of the government.

'The IMF appreciates the commitment of the Government of Pakistan to this exercise and looks forward to continuing our collaboration," it stated.

The IMF further announced that its scoping team for the GCD assessment will "return to Pakistan later in this year to continue gathering information and exploring opportunities to strengthen governance and integrity, and economic outcomes in preparation for the eventual assessment".

The Fund noted that the mission's focus was to preliminarily assess governance and corruption vulnerabilities across six core state functions.

dawn

Trump administration to cut thousands of jobs at Pentagon and IRS

The Trump administration is cutting more than 11,000 jobs at the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Pentagon, as part of its sweeping efforts to shrink the size of the federal workforce.

Around 6,000 layoffs at the IRS began on Thursday, coming in the middle of tax season as millions of Americans file their returns.

The defence department plans to axe more than 5,000 jobs next week as part of a goal to reduce its nearly million-strong civilian workforce by 5 to 8%, the Pentagon said on Friday. It will also put a hiring freeze in place.

The Trump administration has appointed Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency (Doge) to implement the layoffs as part of a cost-cutting drive.

The probationary workers who are expected to lose their jobs at the IRS "were not deemed as critical to filing season", according to an email seen by CBS News, the BBC's US partner.

Most Americans have a deadline of 15 April to file their taxes, though the government allows extensions under some circumstances.

Musk wields his Doge chainsaw - but is a backlash brewing?

robationary employees are generally those on the job for less than a year. A person who has been a long-serving employee but moved to a new position is also often considered in a probationary position. The BBC has contacted the IRS and treasury department for comment. Reports suggest the terminations will target mostly new and newly promoted employees, with half of the cuts hitting an office known as the Small Business/Self-Employed (SBSE) Division.

The email from SBSE commissioner Lia Colbert says that "while details are still developing, we understand that over 3,500 SB/SE probationary hires will be terminated by the end of this week".

About 83,000 people worked for the IRS as of the 2023 fiscal year.

Many of the targeted roles appear to deal with compliance matters, or ensuring Americans



pay what the government says they owe.

Linda Bilmes, a professor at the Harvard Kennedy School, told the BBC: "What people like even less than paying taxes is not being able to reach someone to help them pay their taxes accurately."

The Biden administration had secured $80bn (£63bn) in funding for new resources and staff at the IRS, to help the government bring in more revenue.

Republicans, who generally advocate for lower taxes, opposed the effort and have long targeted the IRS for funding cuts.

In an interview on Fox News, Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said Trump's "goal is to abolish the Internal Revenue Service and let all the outsiders pay".

The president has proposed an "External Revenue Service" to generate funds from tariffs, or taxes on foreign imports, instead.

The firings at the Pentagon were expected to initially affect about 5,400 probationary workers beginning next week before freezing hiring, a defence department statement said. **bbc**

Arab leaders meet in Riyadh to discuss Gaza reconstruction plans

Arab leaders gathered in Riyadh on Friday to discuss plans for Gaza's post-war reconstruction, the Saudi Press Agency reported, amid growing opposition to Donald Trump's suggestion that the US assume control



of the Palestinian territory and displace its population.

Earlier this month, Trump, during a press conference with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, floated the idea of turning Gaza into the "Riviera of the Middle East" under US oversight, suggesting that Palestinians could be resettled in neighboring countries. His remarks sparked condemnation across the Arab world, with leaders rejecting any efforts to displace Palestinians and pledging to develop their own framework for Gaza's reconstruction. A photo from the meeting showed Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman with leaders from Jordan, Qatar, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, and Bahrain.

According to SPA, the leaders reaffirmed their commitment to supporting the Palestinian cause and exchanged views on regional and international developments. The discussions are set to continue at the upcoming emergency Arab summit in Cairo on March 4, where leaders will address the ongoing crisis in Gaza and broader regional stability. **alarabiya**